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THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIAN COMMUNISM

The most significant feature of the historical section, or about 80 percent, of the 25 July Tass release on the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is its minimizing of Stalin's role. The rewriting of history which during his lifetime cast Stalin in the role of Lenin's close friend and collaborator from the early days of the revolution is discarded completely.

Stalin's actual leadership in Soviet affairs from the time of the great purges on is diminished almost to the vanishing point. His association with the Five Year Plans is not mentioned. The nationality policy, previously credited to him, is now called the "Lenin-Stalin" policy. His name is not connected with the 1936 Constitution, until recently always referred to as "the great Stalin Constitution."

The party takes credit for leadership during the war years, rather than giving it to Stalin. The only quotation from Stalin is one in which he praises Lenin as the leader and teacher of the Bolsheviks. Lenin and the party are emphasized throughout.

The release maintains that the USSR has all the prerequisites for building a "full Communist Society": inexhaustible national resources; a widely developed heavy industry which is the foundation of a socialist economy; consumer and food industries capable of meeting the growing demands of workers in both town and countryside; modern state and collective farms which can raise the harvest yields of all crops and livestock.

Admittedly, however, there are still urgent, unsolved economic problems - enterprises and even some branches of industry which lag behind, and some farms and agricultural districts which are in a neglected state. This statement is borne out by recent announcements which disclose underfulfillment of planned goals in certain parts of the economy. Much emphasis is put on the Party's responsibility for the well-being and prosperity of the people, for raising their standard of living.

With regard to foreign policy the emphasis is on Lenin's statement that "lasting coexistence" between capitalism and communism is possible. Lenin is also quoted in emphasis of Document No. 025

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the need for Communist-Capitalist trade. The main concern of the party is to maintain peace, prevent a new war. It is pointed out, however, that the "imperialist camp, torn asunder by difference and economic instability" fear co-existence. Under these circumstances, the "imperialists" send agents posing as communists to penetrate the ranks of the party and undermine it. Vigilance is therefore necessary to prevent the success of such maneuvers. This is unquestionably an indirect reference to Beria. The only other such reference is the mention of a July plenum of the central committee which demonstrated the capability of the party to face all tasks confronting it. Beria never is named.

The principle of the collective leadership of the Party is continually stressed, and one passage points out that "the cult of the individual...has nothing in common with Marxist-Leninist concepts" - a repetition of the now-familiar slap at Stalin's one-man rule.

Summing up, the release points out that "in the field of internal policy, the party considers it one of its most important tasks to go on showing untiring concern for the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising demands of the Soviet people. On the basis of the expansion of the national economy the standard of living of workers of the Socialist community will steadily rise while their material and cultural demands will be met with increasing abundance and on a wider range."

In this connection, it was mentioned earlier in the release that the party's policy is "to strengthen the friendship and solidarity of the Soviet people with the great Chinese people, the workers of all lands of the peoples democracies." This follows recent Kremlin practice of emphasizing China, and is perhaps a measure of Soviet concern regarding the solidarity of the communist world.

"In foreign policy the party will continue the policy of safe-guarding and stabilizing peace, the policy of collaborating with all countries and the development of business-like relations with them on the principle of observance of mutual interests," the release continues. "Only a stable and lasting peace between peoples creates the essential conditions for the further constant development of the Socialist economy, for assuring a happy and abundant life of the workers of our country."

In other words, the release, like all recent statements and tactics, points to a continuation of the conciliatory policy.

It is of some significance that this definitive release

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is signed by "The Department of Propaganda and Agitation of the Central Committee of the CPSU; the Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin Institute attached to the Central Committee of the CPSU."

This signature stamps the document as a statement of party policy, not government, and reemphasizes the collectivity of Soviet leadership by the top party leaders and the members of the top party staff - the apparatus of the Central Committee which contains the Propaganda and Agitation department and the Institute.

The release does not necessarily mean that the official Soviet reaction to the idea of a four-power conference, if and when it becomes known, will reverse Pravda's rejection of it on the terms now envisaged by the West.

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